

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of managing a plurality of communication
2 devices, said communication device being adapted to be
3 cleared and reset to a default state if a communication
4 failure occurs a predetermined number of times, said method
5 comprising the steps of:

6 forming a queue of data access jobs to be run on said
7 plurality of communication devices;

8 executing said data access jobs in accordance with said
9 queue; and

10 controlling said queue in order to optimize a usage
11 efficiency of said plurality of communication devices.

1 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step
2 of controlling said queue is accomplished over the Internet.

1 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein controlling
2 said queue includes rescheduling unsuccessful data access
3 jobs in said queue.

1 4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising
2 the step of compiling failure data for said unsuccessful data
3 access jobs.

1 5. The method according to claim 4, further comprising
2 the step of assigning a score to one or more of said
3 plurality of communication devices based on said compiled
4 failure data.

1 6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising
2 the step of temporarily taking off-line each one of said
3 plurality of communication devices scoring higher than a
4 first predetermined score.

1 7. The method according to claim 5, further comprising
2 the step of permanently taking off-line each one of said
3 plurality of communication devices scoring higher than a
4 second predetermined score.

1 8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising
2 the step of logging a progress of one or more of said data
3 access jobs.

1 9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising
2 the step of allowing manual control of said data access job
3 via an Internet based device.

1 10. The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 plurality of communication devices includes a modem.

1 11. The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 plurality of communication devices includes a network
3 interface card.

1 12. A system for managing a plurality of data access
2 jobs, comprising:

3 a plurality of communication devices for performing said
4 plurality of data access jobs;

5 a local control unit coupled to and configured to
6 operate said plurality of communication devices in accordance
7 with a queue; and

8 a system control unit in communication with said local
9 control unit and configured to control said queue in order
10 to optimize a success rate of said data access jobs.

1 13. The system according to claim 12, wherein said
2 system control unit communicates with said local control unit
3 via an Internet connection.

1 14. The system according to claim 12, wherein said
2 system control unit controls said queue by rescheduling
3 unsuccessful data access jobs in said queue.

1 15. The system according to claim 12, wherein said
2 system control unit is further configured to compile failure
3 data for unsuccessful data access jobs.

1 16. The system according to claim 15, wherein said
2 system control unit is further configured to assign a score

3 to one or more of said plurality of communication devices
4 based on said compiled failure data.

1 17. The system according to claim 16, wherein said
2 system control unit is further configured to temporarily take
3 off-line any one of said plurality of communication devices
4 scoring higher than a predetermined score.

1 18. The system according to claim 16, wherein said
2 system control unit is further configured to take off-line
3 any one of said plurality of communication devices scoring
4 higher than a predetermined score, said system control unit
5 adapted to reset or clear any one of said plurality of
6 communication devices scoring higher tat a predetermined
7 score.

1 19. The system according to claim 12, wherein said
2 system control unit is further configured to log a progress
3 of one or more of said data access jobs.

1 20. The system according to claim 12, wherein manual
2 control of a data access job can be accomplished over the
3 Internet via said system control unit.

1 21. The system according to claim 12, wherein said
2 plurality of communication devices includes at least one of
3 a modem and a network interface card.

1 22. A method of managing a plurality of communication
2 devices via a control system, comprising the steps of:

3 forming a queue of data access jobs to be run on said
4 plurality of communication devices;

5 executing said data access jobs in accordance with said
6 queue;

7 controlling said queue in order to optimize a success
8 rate of said data access jobs wherein said control of said
9 queue is accomplished over the Internet;

10 compiling failure data for unsuccessful data access jobs
11 and assigning a score to one or more of said plurality of
12 communication devices based on said failure data;

13 taking off-line any one of said plurality of
14 communication devices scoring higher than a predetermined
15 score;
16 resetting any one of said plurality of communication
17 devices scoring higher than a predetermined score;
18 logging a progress of one or more of said data access
19 jobs; and
20 allowing manual control of a data access job via an
21 Internet connection.

FILED IN U.S. PATENT OFFICE